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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

WOMBWELL:
A. TAYLOR & SONS, LTD.
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Thornhill House,
DARFIELD,
Yorks.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Medical Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District during the year 1938, together with an analysis of the vital statistics for the period under review.

It is a matter of some regret locally that the Minister of Health should decline to accept the County Council's proposal to amalgamate with Darfield the adjacent parishes of Houghton Magna, Houghton Parva and Billingley. The question of local Civil Defence organisation accentuates the essential unity of the Districts mentioned.

The year under review was in the main a healthy one, although a big increase in the cases of notified tuberculosis is a disquieting factor. The late summer and autumn brought with them for the public health staff extra duties in regard to Air Raid Precautions. The resignation of the Surveyor Mr. Whitehead, in November, left a temporary gap which has since been adequately filled by his successor, Mr. C. Gray, to whom we extend a sincere welcome and of whose cool efficiency we express deep appreciation.

It is, I think, appropriate that recognition should be made here of the efforts of all those residents who have in however small a measure, contributed to the successful raising and training of Air Raid Precaution personnel. This is one matter in which successful and enthusiastic local effort is of national importance; the Staincross Area is fortunate indeed in its acquisition of Captain Peter Symons' services as area organizer.

In conclusion may I express the hope that next year's Annual Medical Report may be able to lay more stress on construction and less on efforts to resist destruction ?

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.

The area of the district is 2,018 acres.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population for the middle of 1938 is 5,698.

Population:—

1937	...	5,701
1936	...	5,517
1935	...	5,369

There was in 1938 a decrease in population of 3.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was according to the rate books, 1.650.

Rateable Value and Sum represented by a Penny Rate.

Rateable Value	£19,930	0	0
Produce of a Penny Rate (gross) ...	83	0	10

The rateable value has increased during the year by £433 and the produce of a penny rate from £81-4-9 to £83-0-10.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	46	42	88
Illegitimate	1	3	4
Totals	47	45	92

The birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 16.14

The birth rate per 1,000 England and Wales was 15.10

STILL BIRTHS.

Still Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	2

Still birth rate for Darfield per 1,000 population ... 0.35

Still birth rate for England and Wales 0.60

Deaths.

Total number of deaths registered during 1938 60

Male deaths 27
Female deaths 33

This total is 4 more than in the previous year and 2 less than in 1936.

TABLE 1.

Deaths from all causes in 1938.

	Disease	Males	Females	Total
1	Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
2	Measles	—	1	1
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	1	—	1
6	Influenza	1	—	1
7	Encephalitis	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	2	4
10	Other Tuberculosis	—	—	—
11	Syphilis	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of Insane	—	—	—
13	Cancer	1	4	5
14	Diabetes	—	1	1
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	5	8
16	Heart Disease	7	14	21
17	Aneurysm	—	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	—	3
19	Bronchitis	—	—	—
20	Pneumonia	2	—	2
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—
23	Diarrhoea (under two years)	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis	—	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
26	Other Liver Diseases	—	1	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	1	—	1
28	Nephritis	2	1	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	—	1	1
31	Congenital Causes	2	1	3
32	Senility	—	—	—
33	Suicide	—	1	1
34	Other Violence	1	1	2
35	Other Defined Causes	1	—	1
36	Ill-defined Causes	—	—	—
	TOTALS	27	33	60

Crude death rate per 1,000 for Darfield	10.5
Corrected death rate per 1,000 for Darfield	12.2
Provisional death rate for England & Wales per 1,000	11.6

Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1934	11.3
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1935	11.7
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1936	12.3
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1937	12.4
Corrected death rate for Darfield, 1938	12.2

Particulars of the causes of death are contained in Table 1.

There was approximately the same corrected death rate in the district as in 1937. Thirty two of the sixty deaths were caused by heart diseases and other diseases of the circulation. The cancer death rate remained at the same level as the previous year. Deaths from congenital causes decreased from six in 1937 to three in 1938.

There was an increase of two in the deaths from respiratory tuberculosis.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one death from puerperal causes in the year.

In England and Wales during 1938, the Maternal Mortality Rate was 3.08 per 1,000 live births. In 1937 the Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 3.23.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 4 deaths of Infants under the age of 1 year as against 10 during 1937.

Expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births:—

Infantile mortality rate for Darfield	43.5
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales	53.0

The improved figures on those of 1937 are a great source of satisfaction to me.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health (part time):
Dr. J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator:
Dr. J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer, Child Welfare Centre:
Dr. J. W. WHITWORTH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer, Ante-Natal Clinic:
Dr. GWYNETH M. COTTERELE, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector:
S. E. WHITEHEAD, C.R.S.I. (resigned November, 1938)

C. GRAY, C.R.S.I.

Surveyor:
S. E. WHITEHEAD, C.R.S.I. (resigned November, 1938)

C. GRAY, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor:
NURSE PINCKNEY, S.R.N., C.M.B.

Laboratory Facilities.

During the year adequate use was made of the facilities provided by the County Council Laboratory at Wakefield for the examination of pathological specimens.

Home Nursing.

During the course of a year's work many cases of sickness are met which require home nursing but in which no contribution has been paid to the Voluntary Association. Most of such cases unfortunately could not afford to pay the penalty fee which the Association rightly charges in these circumstances. The moral should be obvious. PLEASE JOIN NOW.

Ambulance Facilities.

These have remained unchanged during the year.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The County Council provides the following facilities:—

Clinic	Situation
Infant Welfare Centre ...	Wesleyan Church School, Barnsley Road, Darfield. Each Wednesday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Wesleyan Church School, Barnsley Road, Darfield, Second and fourth Fridays in each month, 2.0 - 5.30 p.m.
School Clinic	Wesleyan Church School
Tuberculosis Clinic	Dispensary, 46, Church Street, Barnsley. Wednesdays, 10.0 a.m. and 2.0 p.m. Fridays, 10.0 a.m.
Venereal Clinic	Queen's Road, Barnsley.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Held at the Schools when required and at the Child Welfare Centre.

Hospitals.

Surgical:	Sheffield Royal Infirmary. Sheffield Royal Hospital. Barnsley Beckett Hospital. Leeds General Infirmary. Sheffield Children's Hospital.
Medical:	As above.

Maternity:	Jessop Hospital, Sheffield. Montagu Hospital, Mexborough. Listerdale Home, Rotherham.
Infectious Diseases:	Kendray Isolation Hospital, Barnsley.
Tuberculosis:	County Council Sanitoria.
Mental Diseases:	County Council Mental Hospitals.
Chronic Sick:	St. Helens Hospital, Barnsley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water is supplied and distributed by the Dearne Valley Water Board. During the year the quantity and quality were satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.

No action taken.

Closet Accommodation.

All houses erected during the year were provided with water closets.

Scavenging.

Household refuse is disposed of by means of a system of controlled tipping which works well in practice. The total cost of the collection and disposal of the refuse during the year was £744, an increase of £54 on the previous year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year new sewers were laid to meet the requirements of the new Council Houses. The sewerage disposal works continue to function well.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total inspections made in 1938 for nuisances only	574
Nuisances found in 1938	31
Nuisances abated	31

HOUSING.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 124

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 124

2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head I. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 91

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 91

3. Number of dwelling-houses needing further action 124

   (a) Number considered to be in a state so injurious to health or dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation 9

   (b) Number (excluding those under sub-head (a) above found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 115

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers 77

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16, of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 33

(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after serving of formal notices 33

(a) By owners 29

(b) By Local Authority in default of the owners 4

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of representations, etc. made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation ... 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 9

(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

There being in the district no separate tenement or underground rooms, the proceedings taken were Nil.

VI. Unhealthy Areas.

Nil for year 1938.

V. Number of New Houses erected during the year 1938.

(a)	By the Local Authority	50
(b)	By Private Enterprise	4

IV. Housing Conditions.

The general standard of housing conditions in the area is being steadily raised. Much remains to be done in the way of renovations to old properties, much has had to be set aside temporarily in order to concentrate on Civil Defence.

During the year fifty new houses were built by your Council, mainly to abate conditions revealed by the Overcrowding Survey of 1936.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Carried out by the West Riding County Council.

There are in force in the area:

(1) One licence for the production of Grade "A" Tuberculin Tested Milk.

(2) Two licences for the production of Grade "A" Accredited Milk.

The Milk analysis during the year was satisfactory.

There are nine registered cow-keepers in the district Their cow-sheds are satisfactory and the methods of production and handling of Milk are, in general, good.

Meat.

Meat inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

There are no public abattoirs in the district, but there are four private slaughter houses.

During the year the following work was done.

	Total No. of carcases inspected.	Number entirely condemned	No. of cases where part of carcase or organs condemned.
Beasts ...	468	2	47
Calves ...	13	—	—
Sheep ...	480	—	10
Pigs ...	390	—	43

Number of prosecutions ... ... Nil

Adulteration.

The work of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is carried out by the County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Carried out by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total incidence of infectious diseases in the district again shewed a most welcome decrease during the year; the question of County re-organisation of infectious diseases hospitals will be more fully dealt with next Annual Report.

The number of scarlet fever cases again show a decrease. The number was 8, compared with 13 in 1937 and 58 in 1936. There were no deaths from this disease.

The number of diphtheria cases also show a decrease. There were 6 cases against 16 in 1937 and 29 in 1936. This is a much more satisfactory figure but once again I must point out that in immunisation we have the means to stamp out the disease altogether and I do urge parents to co-operate with the authorities and take full advantage of the facilities offered for immunisation.

The number of deaths from cancer and other malignant diseases was 5, which is the same as last year, (1937).

There were 14 new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, 10 respiratory and 14 non-respiratory. There were 4 deaths from this disease. Attention must be drawn to this large increase of tuberculosis cases, (3 in 1937 and 14 in 1938) and an appreciation expressed of the Local Authority's housing programme initiative. A peculiarity of the locality incidence of the new cases of tuberculosis is that it was "against the book," in other words, it was not in the old houses that the new cases, broadly speaking, were found. Whether or not this is merely coincidence remains to be proved by subsequent annual figures.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	7	—
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2		—
Pneumonia	5	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium ...	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respirat'y		Non-Respirat'y		Respirat'y		Non-Respirat'y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	=	=	=	—	=	=	=	=
1	=	=	=	—	=	=	=	=
5	=	=	3	—	=	=	=	=
15	1	1	=	1	=	=	=	=
25	1	2	=	—	=	1	=	=
35	1	=	=		=	=	=	=
45	2	2	=	—	2	1	=	=
55	=	=	=	—	=	=	=	=
65 and upwards ...	=	=	=	—	=	=	=	=
Totals	5	5	3	1	2	2	=	=